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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/456,249	12/07/1999	DARRYL E. RUBIN	03797.85089	6181

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EXAMINER

ROMERO, ALMARI DEL CARMEN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2176

DATE MAILED: 03/31/2003

9

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/456,249

Applicant(s)

RUBIN ET AL.

Examiner

Almari Romero

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 November 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 December 1999 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5, 8 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Application filed on 12/07/99 and IDS filed on 10/24/02, 10/25/02, 11/13/02, and 11/27/02.

2. Claims 1-5 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 3, 4, and 5 are independent claims.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 10/24/02 and 11/27/02 has been considered by the examiner.

4. The information disclosure statement filed 10/25/02 including copies of related U.S. applications for double patenting purposes has been considered by the Examiner, however, reference to these applications will not be printed on any patent issuing from the present case as prior art.

5. The references listed in the information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 11/13/02 have been already considered by the examiner in the duplicate copy information disclosure statement filed on 10/24/02.

Drawings

7. The drawings filed on 12/07/99 are objected to as indicated in the attached PTO-948 form. Formal corrected drawings can be filed at allowance.

Specification

8. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

a) On pages 6-7 of the specification, Applicant is suggested to use the preferable arrangement of the Specification as provided in 37 CFR 1.77 (see MPEP 608.01(a) Arrangement of Application) and deleting "Table of Contents...".

b) Referring to the US Patent Applications cited in the specification on page 3, lines 27-30, page 37, lines 8-18, page 38, lines 18-23, and page 40, lines 5-9, Applicant is suggested to insert related applications serial numbers and the status of each application, if allowed or in patent prosecution.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

9. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

10. **Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by "Adobe Acrobat 3.0 Reader Online Guide", 9/1996, Adobe Systems, Inc., pages 1-110 (herein after "Adobe").**

Regarding independent claim 1, Adobe discloses:

A computer user interface (on page 2 discloses a user interface) comprising:

a plurality of document pages (on page 2 and pages 29-30 discloses a plurality of displayed pages);

at least one of the document pages including at least one link (on page 2 and page 102 discloses hypertexts links are highlighted in blue to be click by the user and to go to the indicated page or topic); and

at least one of the links linking to command code such that when one of the links linking to command code is activated, the command code linked to the activated link is executed (on pages 2-3 and page 102 discloses objects and text highlighted in blue are used as links or "Go to" command to another page or topic and on page 35 discloses link to another document is activated).

Regarding dependent claim 2, Adobe discloses:

further comprising: a Guide Book including a plurality of command descriptions and a plurality of links that are active command instances, the active command instances being invocable in place from the Guide Book (on page 2 and page 102 discloses a description of each object or text (highlighted in blue) to help user use the online guide).

Regarding independent claim 3, Adobe discloses:

A computer user interface for displaying user content documents having links (on page 2 discloses user interface displaying pages with linking topics and linking objects), the user interface comprising:

a plurality of user interface documents having links (on page 2 discloses left display of plurality of linked documents of various topics); and

a unified navigational context for allowing a user to interact with both the user interface documents and the user content documents in a unified way by activating the user interface document links and the user content document links (on page 2 and on pages 29-30 discloses right display of a plurality of pages (user content document) associated with the linking topics on the left display (user interface document); on pages 50-52 discloses navigating or paging through a documents; on page 58 discloses tracing your steps with Go Back and Forward buttons).

Regarding independent claim 4, Adobe discloses:

A computer user interface (on page 2 discloses user interface) comprising:

a plurality of document pages (on page 2 and pages 29-30 discloses a plurality of displayed pages);

at least one of the document pages including at least one link (on page 2 and page 102 discloses hypertexts links are highlighted in blue to be click by the user and to go to the indicated page or topic); and

a flexible selection model for allowing a user to select the object of a command either before or after the user selects the command (on pages 2-3 and page 102 discloses objects and text highlighted in blue are used as links or "Go to" command to another page or topic).

Regarding independent claim 5, Adobe discloses:

A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the step of providing a computer user interface (on page 2 discloses user interface) wherein

a user accesses user content documents (on page 2 discloses a left display of plurality of pages accessed by the user clicking on the linking topic on the left display),

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accesses user interface help information (page 102: how to use this online guide (help information), and

executes commands by activating links on documents pages and wherein user content documents and user interface documents are presented in a single viewing frame executed (on pages 2-3 and page 102 discloses objects and text highlighted in blue are used as links or "Go to" command to another page or topic and discloses displaying linking topics left display (user interface document) and linked pages on the right display (user content document) of a single viewing window; on page 35 discloses link to another document is activated).

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

USPN 5,978,818 – Lin – filed on 04/1997


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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Almari Romero whose telephone number is (703) 305-5945. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays - Fridays (7:30am - 4:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on (703) 308-5186. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for regular communications and (703) 746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

AR
March 24, 2003


HEATHER R. HERNDON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100